

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A mutant N-acetylglutamate synthase wherein the amino acid sequence corresponding to positions from 15 to 19 in a wild type N-acetylglutamate synthase is replaced with any one of amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOS: 1 to 4, and feedback inhibition by L-arginine is desensitized,

wherein the wild type N-acetylglutamate synthase is a protein defined in the following (A) or (B):

(A) a protein having an amino acid sequence defined in SEQ ID NO: 16; or
(B) a protein that is encoded by a DNA which hybridizes with a DNA having the nucleotide sequence defined in SEQ ID NO: 15 under stringent conditions, and wherein said protein is at least 70% homologous to a protein having amino acid sequence defined in SEQ ID NO: 16 and wherein said protein has a N-acetylglutamate synthase activity.

2. (Currently Amended) The mutant N-acetylglutamate synthase according to claim 1, where [[a]] the wild type N-acetylglutamate synthase is that of *Escherichia coli*.

3. (Currently Amended) The mutant N-acetylglutamate synthase according to claim 1, which wherein within the bounds of 70% homology to SEQ ID NO: 16 said mutant N-acetylglutamate synthase includes deletion, substitution, insertion, or addition of one or several amino acids at one or a plurality of positions other than positions from 15 to 19, wherein feedback inhibition by L-arginine is desensitized.

4. (Withdrawn) A DNA coding for the mutant N-acetylglutamate synthase as defined in any one of claims 1 to 3.

5. (Withdrawn) A bacterium belonging to the genus *Escherichia* which is transformed with the DNA as defined in claim 4 and has an activity to produce L-arginine.

6. (Withdrawn) A method for producing L-arginine comprising the steps of cultivating the bacterium as defined in claim 5 in a medium to produce and accumulate L-arginine in the medium and collecting L-arginine from the medium.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 1-3 have been amended.

The amendment of Claims 1-3 is supported by the specification, including the Examples, as originally filed. For example, support for the present amendment may be found on page 9, line 12 to page 10, line 7 and at page 7, lines 17-21.

The specification has been amended to provide sequence identifiers for the wild type *argA* gene of *E. coli* having GenBank Accession Y00492. In addition, the gene sequence and the corresponding protein sequence encoded therein have been added to the Sequence Listing as new SEQ ID NOs: 15 and 16. Support for this amendment is found throughout the specification as filed, including the Examples. Further support for this amendment is offered by the Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.132 (executed by Leonid R. Ptitsyn), which declares that the sequence provided as new SEQ ID NOs: 15 and 16 correspond to the wild-type *argA* gene that was utilized in the Examples of the present application. Table 2 has also been amended to insert the sequence identifiers.

No new matter is believed to be added by these amendments.